

Central Region Essay Winner

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Growing up, I came to understand that giving in itself was not what was important; it was the intent and the love behind giving that made the difference. One would not give until they are prompted or a burden is laid upon their heart to do so in the grand scheme of things. I find solace in the knowledge that there existed a man like Thomas Cannon and that there are others like him out there.

The first reason on my list for giving would be “the beauty of compassion does not just lie in the deeds of a man but the potential to birth happiness and contentment.” The reason I would have this on the top of the list is because I find the human nature of compassion to be most intriguing. I find it amazing that one would give part of their possessions to another person, who would then do unto others as someone had done for him or her. And even as we seek, we should be able to give because it speaks unto one’s values and character.

I strongly believe that Thomas Cannon would agree with me because fresh leaves do not grow on their own; they are nourished by autumn leaves and fertile soil. That is one of the twelve undeniable truths of our very existence. People have sacrificed too much for us to do so little in our everyday lives. Another reason I would like to add is, “If you give with the right mindset, you give the happiness unto yourself.”

Being of African descent, I grew up in a Third World environment. Life was a daily struggle, and I watched my parents toil every day to provide for me and my siblings. We could barely make ends meet and this made me start stealing. Instead of giving, I began to take things that did not belong to me. Even in the midst of my actions, the people I stole from still showed me love and sympathy. They would often say that all I needed to do was ask and they would give to me.

As I grew older, I realized that the motivation for giving transcends human understanding. I began to not just give but also to show love to others. After all, if we don’t, who will? To be able to freely give is one of the greatest gifts a person can have.